

Joseph, Trevor M.

From: John Ricker [ENV012@co.santa-cruz.ca.us]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 2:53 PM
To: Joseph, Trevor M.
Cc: Scott Couch (SCOUCH@waterboards.ca.gov); 'tbillington@water.ca.gov'; Laura Brown (LauraB@soquelcreekwater.org); Karen Christensen RCDSCC; Taj Dufour; Charles McNiesh (Cmcniesh@svwd.org); Monica Reid (mreid@kestrel-inc.com); Jim Robins
Subject: Comments on Proposition 50 Supplemental Funding Draft Recommendations

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Steering Committee for the Santa Cruz IRWM Region. We want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft funding recommendations for the Prop 50 Supplemental grants. We appreciate the challenge the reviewers faced in having to choose from so many worthy projects. We realize that funding is very limited; that DWR and SWRCB must consider the full range of statewide priorities.

We feel that the reviewers' evaluation does not reflect all of the information that the Santa Cruz team presented in the interview, and that our score should have been higher. In hindsight, the process seems slightly flawed. Letters of support were requested with the Concept Proposal, but information contained in the letters was not used in evaluating projects. The Santa Cruz region had several letters of support confirming or explaining the technical feasibility, need or benefit of our projects, but this information was not considered in the scoring. For example see the letters from Santa Margarita Groundwater Basin Advisory Committee, Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Restoration Center and Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services. This gap should be avoided in future solicitations.

Unless there is information to the contrary, DWR should also trust that IRWM Regions have a solid understanding of the hydrogeology and design elements necessary to complete a successful project. Given the condensed proposal review process and the nature of the funding, we believe that in evaluating Technical Feasibility it would have been most appropriate for reviewers to focus on the successful implementation of projects, rather than design elements. The basis of design for projects is determined at the local level.

Nevertheless, we accept the score and respect that the review process was fair and transparent. We understand that spreading the limited funds over more projects could threaten the viability of many important efforts. We appreciate the opportunity to apply and look forward to working together on future grant cycles.

John Ricker
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